

**MISSOURI SUPREME COURT
JOINT PRO SE IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING AGENDA
OSCA Complex, Room Alameda A
February 22, 2007
10 a.m.**

I. Welcome/Announcements

II. Report on Status and Actions by Supreme Court of Missouri

- A. Rules**
- B. Website Status**
- C. Solo & Small Firm Listserve**
 - 1. Cooper County “Dissolution Kit”**
- D. Review and Assessment of Recommendations**

III. Committee Reports

A. Recommendation #4 – Internet Clearinghouse

Gary Waint, chair (60 Minutes)

- 1. Progress/Implementation Report
- 2. Collection of County/Circuit information/resources for website
- 3. Webinar/Training Videos
- 4. Transfer of web content to printed materials
- 5. Data collection and demographic survey

B. Recommendations # 1 & # 5 – Pro Se Litigant Education/Brochures

Karen Brown (30 minutes)

- 1. Proposed Draft Brochure
- 2. Report on Resources to create DVD Presentation
 - a. Webster U./Catholic Charities – St. Patrick’s Center in St. Louis
 - c. YLS involvement

C. Recommendation # 7 – Pro Bono Initiatives

Hon. Jack Garvey (30 minutes)

- 1. Progress on Roll Out of Pro Bono Initiatives
 - A. MoBarCLE credit for Pro Bono Efforts
 - B. Law Clinics/Student Initiative
 - C. Pro Bono Electronic Deskbook
 - D. Other Initiatives
 - E. Matchmaking and Government Attorney Legislation

D. Recommendation # 8 – Pro Se Forms

Hon. Dennis Smith, chair (30 minutes)

1. Status of Pro Se forms
2. Additional forms being developed and/or needed

E. Recommendation # 3 – Judicial Education

Hon. J.D. Williamson, chair (20 minutes)

1. Judicial Protocol Dissemination
2. Judicial education model curriculum
3. Gaining Judicial Cooperation and Acceptance

G. Recommendation # 2 – Court Clerk Guidelines/Resources (30 minutes)

Kathleen Bird, chair

1. Court Clerk Expanded/Improved Standardized Training Efforts
 - a. alternative court clerk educational initiatives
 - b. court clerk university
 - c. written guidelines as reference and training tools for court clerk offices
 - d. training specifically related to issues of pro se litigant

H. Recommendation # 6 – Unbundled Legal Services (30 minutes)

1. MoBar Unbundled Committee Report
2. Civil Rules Committee Issues

I. Communications – where do we go from here? (60 minutes)

1. MoBar CLE Conference Educational Program
 - a. Solo & Small Firm Conference
 - b. Family Law Conference
 - c. Annual Meeting
2. MoBar Communication Vehicles/Options
 - a. Printed Publications
 - b. Electronic Publications
 - c. Public Information (libraries, general public)
3. OSCA/Courts Educational Program
4. Communication with Judiciary and Courts
5. Local and Specialty Bar Communication and Education

VII. Other Business

VIII. Next Meeting Dates

XI. Adjourn

Pro Se Commission Recommendations & Subcommittees

Recommendation # 1 & # 5

Recommendation # 1

Pro se litigants in specific types of cases should be required to participate in an education program that describes the risks and responsibilities of proceeding without representation.

Recommendation # 5

A pamphlet or brochure should be developed and made available for distribution in each circuit court describing the resources available to educate and inform the pro se litigant of the risks and responsibilities of proceeding without professional legal representation.

James Woodward, chair
Karen Brown
C. Ronald Baird

Recommendation # 2

Guidelines should be developed for court staff that clearly defines what information is and is not considered legal advice. The guidelines should be made available to each circuit court with the option of also distributing the guidelines to pro se litigants. A curriculum and training program for court staff and advocates who interact or assist pro se litigants should be developed.

Kathleen Bird, Chair
Cindy Cook
Hon. Patricia Joyce
Cheryl Whitmarsh

Recommendation # 3

The Judicial Education Committee should develop a curriculum and training program for the judiciary on effective court management techniques in cases involving pro se litigants. The curriculum should include education concerning ethical dilemmas created by pro se litigation and should consider the development of standard protocol for handling hearings involving pro se litigants.

Hon. J.D. Williamson, chair
Hon. Scott Tinsley
Hon. Don Henry
Hon. Ron Holliger (upon consultation)

Recommendation #4:

An internet based centralized clearinghouse should be developed and maintained to serve as a repository for information concerning all pro se services and programs available statewide.

Gary Waint, chair
Jim Young
Hon. Cary Augustine

Recommendation # 6

The Circuit and Family Courts should strengthen alliances with state and local bar associations throughout Missouri to encourage, promote, and support lawyer referral programs that will link those in need of legal representation to lawyers who are available to provide some services in family law cases at reasonable or reduced fees.

Allan Stewart, chair
Richard Halliburton
C. Ronald Baird
Lou DeFeo

Recommendation # 7

The court system and organized bar should proactively encourage lawyers within the state to offer pro bono services annually and encourage initiatives to provide more sources of pro bono legal assistance.

Hon. John Garvey, chair
Richard Halliburton
Eric Wulff
Lou Defeo

Recommendation # 8

The Supreme Court of Missouri should develop and approve plain language, standardized forms and instructions that are accepted in all state courts and made available to pro se litigants.

Hon. Dennis Smith, chair
Hon. Ann-Marie Clarke
Marie Kenyon

